VII. *A Letter from Mr.* Henry Baker, *F. R. S. to the* Preſident, *concerning a new diſcovered* Sea-Inſect, *which he calls the* Eye-ſucker.

SIR,

Read March 8. 1743-4. I WAS lately favoured with a Couple of ſmall Sea-Inſects, by a Gentleman, who told me, they were found fixed by the Snout to the Eyes of Sprats; that they are often obſerved ſticking there, and may conſequently be ſuppoſed to ſuck their Nouriſhment from thence.

As I do not remember this Inſect has been yet mentioned by any body, I hope I ſhall be excuſed for laying before you a ſhort Deſcription of it, with a Drawing thereof, as ſeen by the naked Eye, TAB. I. *Fig.* 2. and another as magnified by the Microſcope, *Fig.* 3. I ſhall likewiſe beg Leave to diſtinguiſh it by the Name of *Eye-ſucker*, as that Name conveys an Idea of the Manner how it lives.

The Length of this little Creature from End to End is near Three Inches, whereof the Head is about one Quarter-part. Its Body is ſomewhat thicker than an Hog's Briſtle, and of a pleaſant green Colour. A Gut ſeems running through it, and terminates at the *Anus*. The Head is light-brown, twice the Thickneſs of the Body, and of an oblong Figure, tapering towards the Snout. It has a Pair of fine ſmall black Eyes, and a Couple of Holes, at ſome Diſtance forwards, which probably are its Noſtrils.

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But the moſt remarkable Part of the Head is its *Proboſcis* or Snout; which is nearly half its Length, and does not end in a Point, but ſpreads at its Extremity with a conſiderable Aperture. This Snout appears of an horny Subſtance, and has, on every Side, ſeveral large Knobs or Protuberances; whereby, when once inſinuated into the Fiſh's Eye, it muſt neceſſarily be fixed there, ſo as not eaſily to be removed. But this the Figure will more expreſſively demonſtrate.

As the Inſects, whence I take this Deſcription, were dead and dry, it cannot poſſibly be ſo exact and particular; and is more liable to Miſtake, than if they had been living. But I hope it may ſerve to give ſome Idea of this odd Creature, till a better can be obtained from ſome curious Obſerver, who may get a Sight of it alive. I am, with the utmoſt Reſpect,

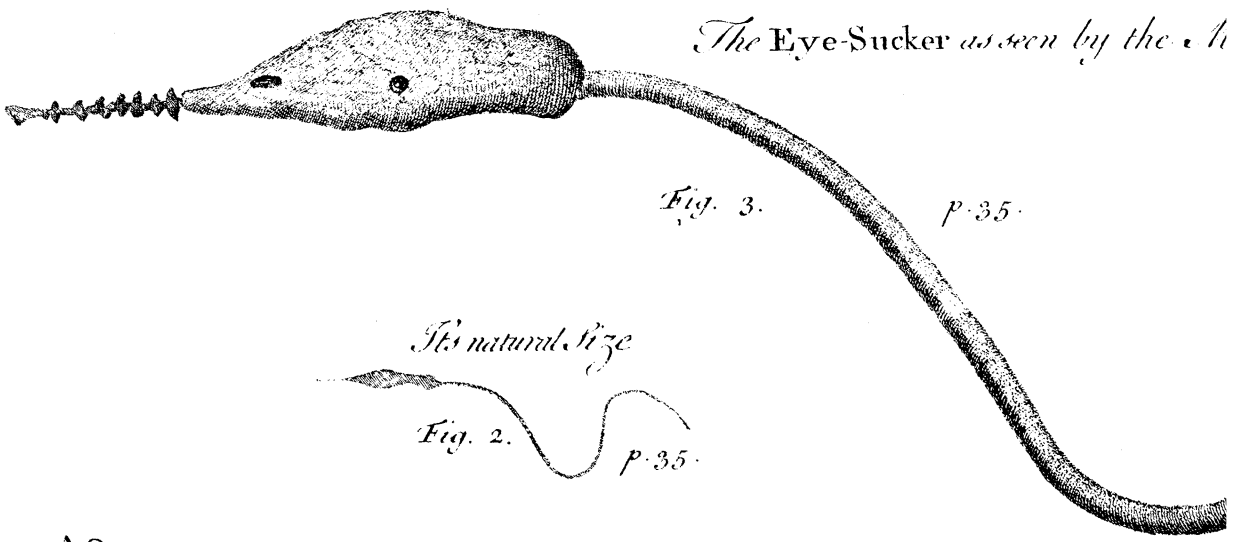
SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

March 8. 1743-4.

H. Baker.

Philos. Trans. N°472. TAB. I.



The Eye-Sucker *as seen by the*

Fig. 3. p. 35.

It's natural Size

Fig. 2. p. 35.

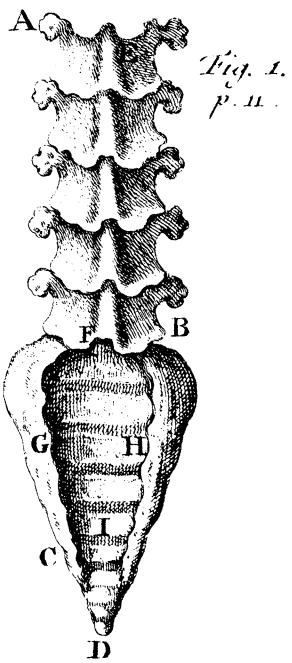


Fig. 1. p. 11.

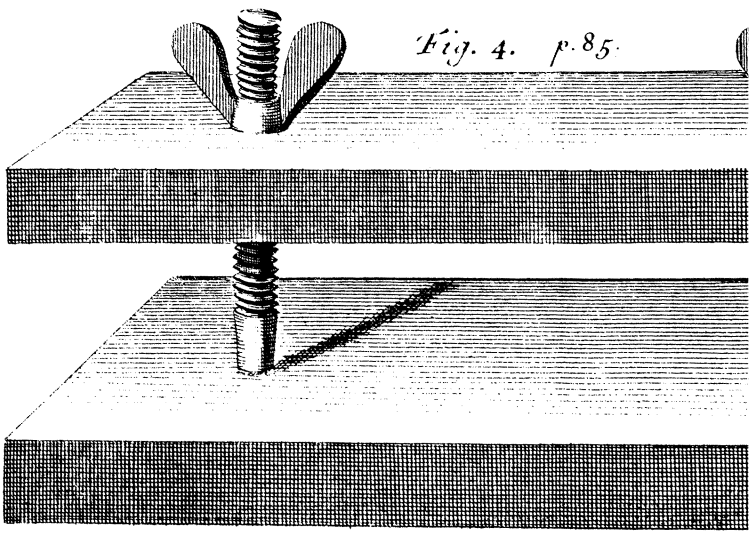
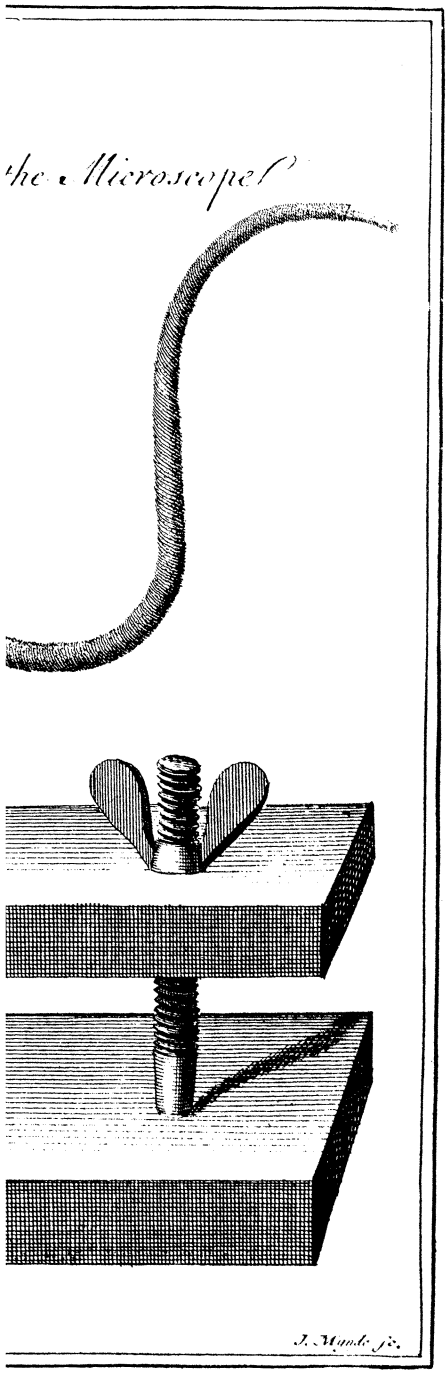
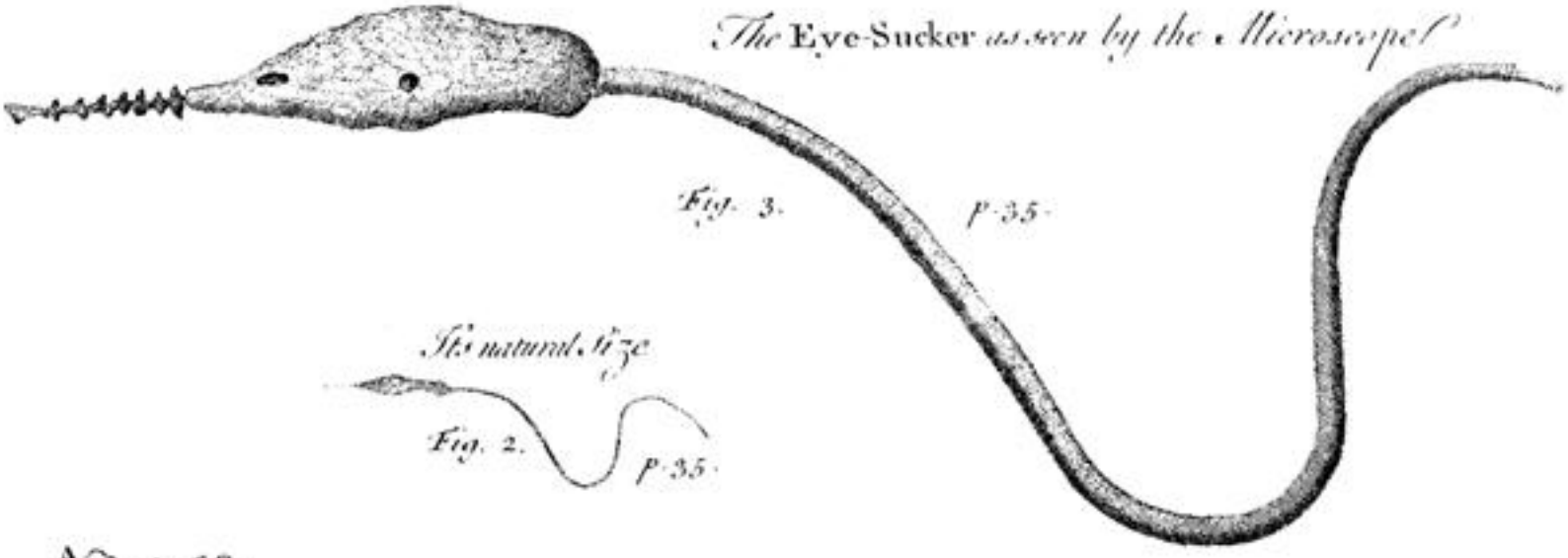


Fig. 4. p. 85.


the Microscope
J. Mynde fc.

The Eye-Sucker *as seen by the Microscope*



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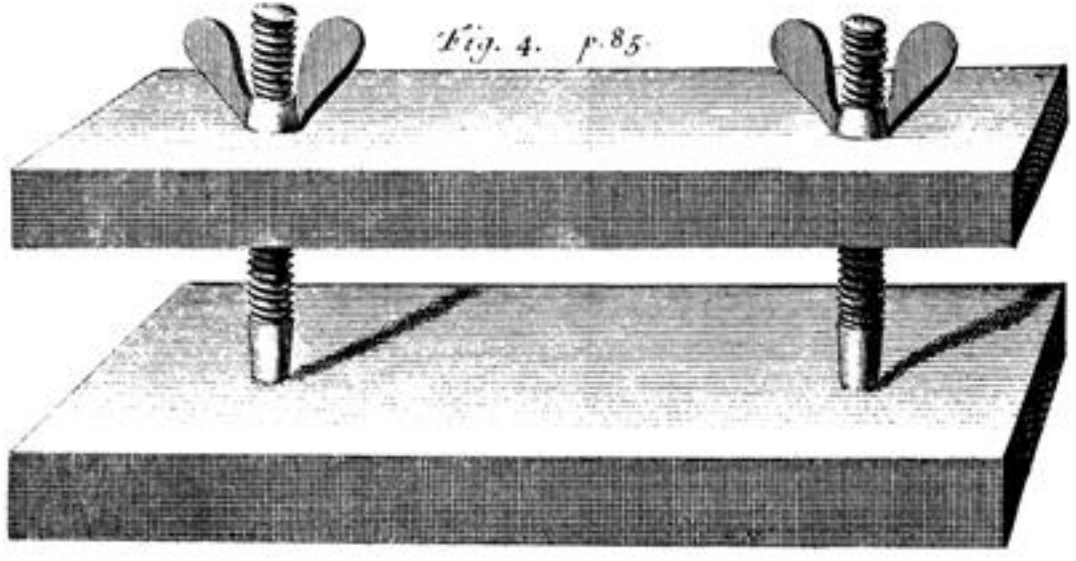
Fig. 4. p. 85.